

GROUND COVER

NEWS AND SOLUTIONS FROM THE GROUND UP



Elections Coverage
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October 2014 VOLUME 5 ISSUE 10

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Where are the debates? Filling the void



by Susan Beckett
Publisher

Have you noticed the absence of debates in Michigan's pre-election season? This might be one of the strongest indicators of the need for campaign finance reform. Instead of meaningful exchanges that clarify candidates' thinking and intentions, voters are being inundated with snarky ads that amount to little more than propaganda.

Last month the Senate debated a proposed constitutional amendment that would have allowed the federal and state governments to regulate political spending. Although 54 Senators voted to pass the bill, that was too few to protect it from a filibuster and the bill is now dead for this session of Congress.

GROUNDCOVER MISSION:

Creating opportunity and a voice for low-income people while taking action to end homelessness and poverty.

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In the days prior to the vote, an interesting debate entitled *Citizens Divided: Corporate Money, Speech and Politics* was live-streamed and is now available on YouTube. James Bopp, the attorney for Citizen's United, took on David Cobb, the leader of Move to Amend – a citizen's group advocating for a very specific amendment to overturn the 2010 *Citizen's United v. Federal Election Commission* ruling, in which the U.S. Supreme Court voted to give corporations and unions the green light to spend unlimited sums on campaigns for or against individual candidates. In the recent debate, Bopp made the point that government officials, being human, will curtail criticism, if they are permitted to do so, and having them make the rules for political spending affords

them that opportunity. Cobb responded that without donor disclosure, foreign corporations and governments could be financing massive "public interest" advertising campaigns that are in no way in the best interests of the United States.

As each man explained his position and the thinking behind it, listeners got a much deeper understanding of the issues at stake, why they matter, and the nuances that should be present in any solution. Cobb pointed out that our country was built on such civil discourse. It is a shame it is missing from Michigan's political scene.

To partially fill the gap, Groundcover News conducted in-depth interviews with candidates running for election

in our area, though we concentrated on issue areas of great interest to our readers and omitted the issues that are commonly addressed. We attempted to interview the major party candidates for each office we targeted; however, some candidates opted out. We filled in what we could from public appearances but the noticeable absence of information on Governor Snyder, Congressman Walberg and State Senator Hune reflects the paucity of public appearances they have made in our area.

It is said that in a democracy, people get the government they deserve. Please take the time to become informed about the candidates who would lead us and the direction they are heading.



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Open Volunteer Meeting for Groundcover News

7:00 pm, Wednesday, October 8

423 S. 4th Ave, Ann Arbor in the basement of the Bethlehem UCC, parking on site

LOOKING WITHIN

How many mornings of glory left?



by Rev. Dr. Martha
Brunell
Groundcover
Contributor

For years I called old brick houses in Saint Louis home. Such houses commonly had postage stamp-sized backyards defined by the boundaries of a chain link fence. The last house I lived in was no exception. Along the west side of my yard, the long stretch of fence was covered with pink, rose, blue, lilac, and purple-colored morning glories. They hadn't always been there. A friend of mine, a nurse on my hospice team, planted those morning glories. She had harvested morning glory seeds all over north city, where our team had patients. There, morning glories grew in joyful abundance up phone poles, across wires, on the fences of abandoned lots and around houses long gone.

My neighbor to the east of my last old city house laughed at my morning glories each summer. He told me that on the farm where he had grown up they were simply annoying weeds. His good-hearted mocking of my love for these beautiful summer blooms that only survive a day didn't change how much I enjoyed them. In Saint Louis they first appeared near the beginning of July. New blossoms would greet me each morning until the morning after the first significant frost, usually around the first of November. They reminded me then and now of the daily manna and quail promised to the ancient Israelites in the long exodus journey to the Promised Land. Beauty is another nourishment that helps to keep us alive.

The morning glory season in northern Illinois is shorter than the one in Saint Louis. My first summer here I was discovering what grew around me in addition to the ever-present corn,

beans, and hay. I was thrilled then to find mid-way through summer the first morning glories on the chain link fence of the 19th-century cemetery just north of my house. Throughout the rest of summer and into autumn, the sturdy plants spread both north and west from the corner fence post. In the high days of summer, blooms are gone by noon. By September, cooler temperatures and decreasing light allow them to be fresh on the vine all day.

Temperatures have been below average much of the summer, long before these waning days of the season. Already we have been in the 40s at night. Not too many mornings from now the morning glories will be over until next summer's heat and warmth return. I will miss that burst of color and the joy of their renewal each and every morning.

Over and over I intend to remember them year-round, to have them be an inspiration in other very different

seasons for the daily commitment to seek and find some evidence of beauty, some awe that makes my heart sing and lightens my step. I don't have to work very hard at this during certain weeks, for the morning glories are simply here.

This intention is much more of a commitment when it is dark and cold or things just simply aren't going as I would choose.

The morning glory question remains for me every day in August, November, February, May, or any other random month, with or without the blossoms to see. Where is the awe, the surprising beauty, the simple gift today to break me open, stretching me outward with a buoyant presence and willingness to connect? The answers vary. What is important for me is that the question abides in whatever season I find myself.

Holistic approach to divorce brings lasting change



Angie Martell
Groundcover
Contributor

As a holistic attorney and mediator, I find the practice of family and divorce law the most complex and the most troubling. When parties are facing a marital breakdown, they often confront their deepest fears and insecurities, and this can trigger a wide range of emotions. Often they lose the ability to communicate with one another, their interactions with each other are defeatist in nature, and the love they once professed is lost in a sea of pain, frustration, anger, fear, loss, and betrayal.

Preparing for a divorce can be confusing and frightening. It's like moving to a strange country where you don't speak the language, don't understand the customs, and the conditions are harsh. In a traditional divorce, two lawyers generally hash it out in a court of law, the parties have very little direct contact with each other, and the little interaction they do have is bitter or unproductive.

When the lawyers become the mouthpieces for the clients, they rob their clients of the ability to explore how they can best resolve their differences

in a peaceful manner. Nowhere is this more evident than in divorces between people with children where parties need to be able to work out their differences together.

In many of the divorce or mediation cases I have witnessed or been part of, the key piece that many people have in common is the love they have for their child or children. Yet, in their anger and desire to prove the other wrong, they hurt the other for the pain they have been caused, and generate a toxicity and negative energy throughout the familial unit that seeps through, permeating a deep stain in the future of these familial relationships.

When fear is present, almost any behavior can be rationalized as just. One example of this is where one spouse has seen himself or herself as a victim. This image can perpetuate a desire or need to continue to see the other spouse as a wrongdoer. This need and belief can often lead to an inability to move forward because the person becomes stuck in the past of "what happened" rather than listening to what the other is saying. They have a difficult time letting go of blame and finding what they need, rather than what they think they may want, and engaging in that dialogue.

In a holistic approach, the parties can come together either in a collaborative process or participate in a traditional process with mediation and can discuss how to protect their rights, move

forward without fighting fire with fire or with unnecessary acrimony, and communicate better. I find that most parties don't want a nasty divorce but may not know how to work out issues or communicate with each other constructively.

Each one of us has accumulated much baggage over our lives – some more than others, but all of us have baggage nonetheless. The limiting and sabotaging beliefs have lived in our psyches for a very long time. We have learned that when a person criticizes us, we feel an urge to do something, an urge to judge, and this rapidly spirals into mentally blaming them, criticizing them, wanting revenge, or blaming ourselves. We have, in some cases, fragmented our souls to avoid the pain we have been caused. We are mindful of our hurts and rejections, supersensitive to the opinions and circumstances of others, so steeped in our own self-centeredness that we isolate ourselves and put up walls to protect us from the hurt. Yet, how we move forward is up to us. In the area of family law and divorce it means looking at issues with an eye to the future. Just because a couple is divorcing it does not mean that the family ends. It is hard to separate even when all parties agree to do so.

I am a strong proponent of the idea that people need to speak to each other when they choose to divorce. I find that this minimizes post-judgment matters than can arise after divorce, such as

change of custody or parenting time. The exception, of course, is where domestic violence is or has been present.

As holistic lawyers, we strive to find the commonality that people share, and in that commonality, we help clients navigate and explore the piece they need in order to go forward and contribute to their own solutions. We often consult or involve other professionals who can help clients navigate through emotional or financial issues so that they can bring their best selves to the process.

Consider the woman who still loved her husband and wasn't ready to let go. She didn't understand why he wanted the divorce. She had spent over two decades with him. She had adult children with him and was in her 50s. Both parties acknowledged that they would probably be in each other's lives because they were awaiting the birth of their first grandchild. They didn't know how to move forward. He felt guilty and she felt angry and depressed. She needed support, and in a holistic practice she got it. With our guidance, she started going to yoga and meditation classes, received help with life insurance coverage, and went to support groups. Six months later, she was in a better place emotionally and felt prepared to accept the Judgment of Divorce.

Angie Martell is an attorney and mediator with the law firm Iglesia Martell in Ann Arbor.

NOVEMBER ELECTIONS

Get to know your candidates

by Susan Beckett

Groundcover News conducted in-depth interviews with candidates running for election in our area. We concentrated on issue areas of great interest to our readers and omitted questions that are commonly addressed elsewhere.

Due to redistricting, Washtenaw County west of Ann Arbor will no longer be represented by State Senator Rebekkah Warren, and will instead join the 22nd District with Livingston County. Those voters will decide this fall between Democrat Shari Pollesch and Republican State Senator Joe Hune.

We attempted to interview the major party candidates for governor, the United States House of Representatives, and the Michigan Legislature, except for the state representative and senatorial candidates from Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti, as those do not appear to be competitive races. Governor Snyder, Senator Hune and Congressman Walberg chose not to participate. We filled in what we could from public appearances, but the noticeable absence of information on Governor Snyder and Senator Hune reflects the paucity of public appearances they have made in our area.

The chart below displays responses to Yes/No questions we asked candidates. The questions use the following acronyms:

VAWA – the Violence Against Women Act, which enhances judicial and law enforcement tools to combat domestic violence.

EITC – the Earned Income Tax Credit, which helps offset taxes for low-wage earners, but was reduced by the State in 2011. The federal version has provisions to allow larger credits for families with three or more children and eliminates the marriage penalty, but these provisions are set to expire in 2018. Candidates who favored making these provisions permanent, along with expanding benefits for single recipients from the current maximum of \$496, have a 'Yes' in that column.

The interviews are presented starting with the most local candidates, and those for opposing candidates are run side-by-side.

November Elections – Candidates on Key Issues

CANDIDATE:	Bowman	Byrnes	Dingell	Driskell	Hochstetler	Pollesch	Walberg	Schauer
Support VAWA?	Yes†	Yes	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	No‡	Yes
Raise Minimum Wage?	No - but	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Expand EITC?	Yes*	Yes†	Yes*	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Campaign Finance Reform?	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Local zoning control	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes

† Needs to look at bill

‡Voted for weaker version

* Prefers tax reform

N/A - not applicable

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52nd District State House

Gretchen Driskell

State Representative Gretchen Driskell has spent a considerable amount of her first term listening and responding to constituents in the 52nd District with concerns over looming disruptions to their quality of life due to unwelcome mining activity. She helped guide successful resistance to the proposed sand mining in Lyndon Township that also heavily impacted Chelsea and to the drilling in Scio Township.

She is currently educating the general community about a gas pipeline that is pending approval to run through Washtenaw County just west of Dexter, and working to amend the Zoning Enabling Law to restore townships' local control in establishing which areas are suitable for mining.

"Climate change and energy use are impacting our country and my district significantly. I continue to support developing stronger programs to promote alternative energy use," Driskell added.

A longtime advocate for education, Driskell proposes fully funding K-12 education by dedicating all the money in the school aid fund to education rather than using it to supplement general fund higher education expenditures, as is now the case.

As to the cost of attending Michigan's universities and community colleges, "There are multiple options available. We used to fund higher education at a much higher level than we do now. We used to fund about 80 percent of the tuition, and now we are at about 25 percent," Driskell said.

She went on to suggest that students who stay and work in Michigan following graduation could receive a tax credit for a portion of their student loans, such as that in a proposed bill which was introduced by Representative Schor. Another tax credit supported by Driskell is restoration of the \$600 State Child Tax Credit that was eliminated in 2011.



Gretchen Driskell addressing the Washtenaw Medical Society audience on September 16, 2014.

Driskell sees the importance of local farmers, and expects that achieving the goals of the Washtenaw County Food Policy Council will help our economy and community in many ways. While mayor of Saline, Driskell helped implement a farmer's market and the use of local produce in the schools.

A straight talker herself, Driskell introduced a package of campaign finance reform bills in the State House last winter in an effort to ensure that voters know who is behind political advertising.

Asked about her goals for Michigan in the next 20 years, Driskell responded, "I would like to see more investment in our people by investing in our public school system and reversing the tax shift to citizens that we experienced in 2012. I believe that Michigan is a great state, with great people. We need to protect our environment, especially our most precious natural resource – our water. We also need to invest in our communities, welcome diversity, and protect people's rights. We need to reverse the trend of people leaving the state by creating an excellent quality of life, making Michigan the number-one state [that] people all over the world choose to live, work and recreate in."

(For more on Driskell's background, visit the Archives section of our website www.groundcovernews.org and scroll to page 5 of our February 2013 edition.)

John Hochstetler

John Hochstetler of Manchester is running for State Representative from Michigan's 52nd District so he can feed people, take care of seniors, make more jobs available, lower taxes, lower regulations and improve education. He believes in limited government, including a part-time legislature.

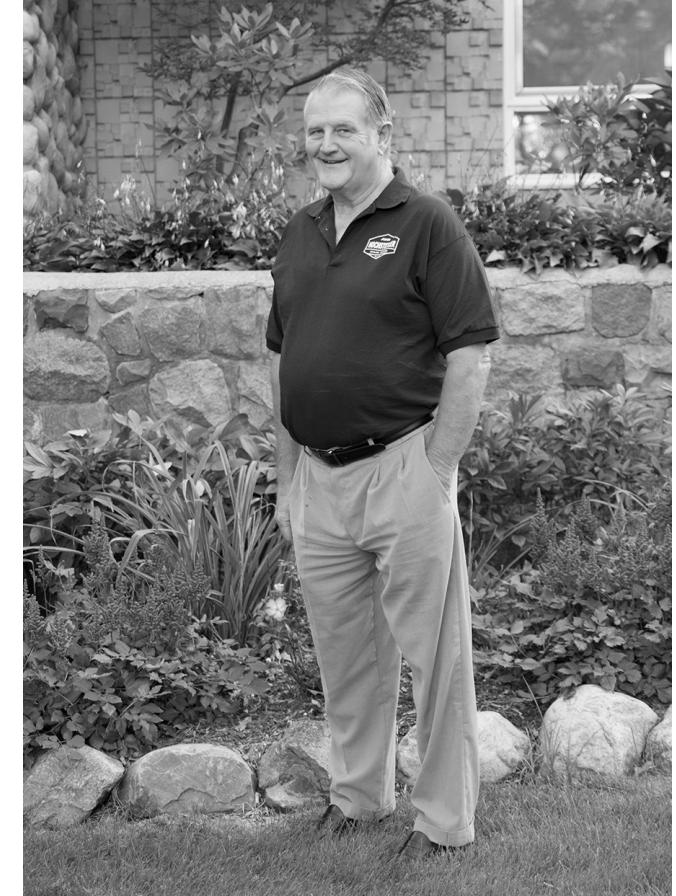
Hochstetler favors restoring the state Earned Income Tax Credit to pre-recession level and restoring the Child Tax Credit, noting that moms and dads "need all the damn help they can get with the kids." He went on to say that if you want a good society, you start with the family.

As a former school board member, he has strong feelings about education and the school environment, ranging from healthy food for students to a drug-free society in which teachers can maintain discipline. Hochstetler opposes the Common Core curriculum, preferring that teachers concentrate on the subjects they are qualified in and that students learn that subject matter well. He also opposes large-scale standardized testing and online schools.

His plan to address the K-12 funding gap includes cutting administrator salaries, eliminating those who construct and evaluate standardized tests, returning funding of the schools (and the power that accompanies it) to local communities, and deporting the illegal aliens in our jails and prisons so those funds used to house them can be redirected into education.

As for making higher education affordable for Michigan students, Hochstetler favors further increasing tuition for out-of-state students and offering tax credits to students who stay and work in Michigan.

Protecting the food supply is another of Hochstetler's passions. He champions 10 Percent Washtenaw, a movement to grow locally at least 10 percent of the food consumed in the county. He feels that we can then better monitor the growing processes, create jobs and stimulate the economy. He also wants to change regulations that promote excessive insecticide use, citing a food system



John Hochstetler outside the Ann Arbor City Club prior to the Washtenaw Medical Society candidate forum.

that demands destruction of a whole truckload of produce if even a single bug hole is found. The recent droughts in California have also left doubts in his mind that we can continue to rely on food from other states.

Hochstetler proposes that zoning, neighborhood and farming regulations be relaxed so people can grow food on empty lots and in their back yards. He would also lower taxes on farms. He frets that corn is fueling cars while children go to bed hungry. He also worries that aging farmers, saddled with debt for farm equipment, might go under if commodity prices fall, leaving a gaping hole in the food supply.

Hochstetler says that the cost of electricity has gone up 30 percent in Michigan since 2008 because of the renewable source requirement, and that this is a burden on lower-income families. He encourages more solar- and hydrogen-based energy production, and calls for a halt to increasing property taxes on homeowners who install solar panels or wind turbines.

While he would like to see campaign finance reform and donor disclosure, Hochstetler believes loopholes will always be found and big money talks. By instead limiting the election cycle to 30-60 days, the amount of money wasted and the duration of advertising inundation would at least be smaller,

see HOCHSTETLER, page 11

State Senate District 22

Shari Pollesch

Shari Pollesch prides herself on her work ethic and integrity. She attributes the 85 percent of her campaign funding coming from individuals – mostly from Livingston County, where she practices law and raised a family – to the way she has lived her life.

"Putting people first – it's how I practice law. I advocate vigorously: listen to the other side and compromise when it serves both sides. As a State Senator, I will advocate for people, not special interests. I will hold a monthly town hall or coffee in Washtenaw County..."

Her opponent, known as "No Show Joe" around Livingston County, finances his campaign almost entirely with money from PACs – primarily those related to insurance (he chairs the Insurance Committee), Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, and DTE Energy – and \$10,000 from members of the DeVos family.

Poelgesch also distinguishes herself from Hune on consistency. She lambastes Hune for demanding no possible conflict of interest for others, such as school board members who have relatives that teach in the district, while he has never abstained from a vote, even those which affected companies for whom his wife is a paid lobbyist. Pollesch also points out that he is anti-regulation for industry, yet he instituted regulation of the private contract



Shari Pollesch at Dexter's Foggy Bottom following a September 13 coffee with potential voters.

between a woman and her insurance company. "He tries to fix the things that aren't broke and completely ignores the ones that are, like our roads. He voted against using the surplus to fix our roads!"

Pollesch hopes to serve on the committee that regulates the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Judiciary. Pollesch has followed closely the recent struggles Scio and Lyndon Townships had in keeping out un-

wanted gas and mining operations. She said it is "fundamentally flawed" that the sole government protection comes from the DEQ, whose oil and gas divisions receive all their funding from the leases granted and the inspection fees it generates (a fact she learned attending a community meeting to fight gas wells in Scio Township).

Pollesch also advocates increasing energy efficiency standards and investing in alternative energy to spur job creation in the energy sector, encourage support of local food sources, reduce carbon emissions and pollution, and protect the tourism industry. "When we increased the energy standards in 2008, we created 20,000 good-paying jobs and \$4 billion dollars in economic activity [according to the 2012 Hill Group study]," Pollesch said.

Married to a man who grew up farming, Pollesch is appalled that farmers are forced to buy seed from Monsanto. She favors labeling and educating people about genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and promoting community supported agriculture (CSAs).

Pollesch said that the first step to campaign finance reform is to do away with gerrymandering so politicians would again have a cross-section of people in their district and would therefore need to be more accountable to constituents.

She advocates computer-generated districts based on population and geography.

On Groundcover's economic priorities, Pollesch favors restoring the \$600 per-child tax credit and raising the minimum wage to an above-poverty rate for full-time workers. "You cannot balance the budget on the backs of the working poor. Even if you have no problem with it philosophically, they just don't have enough money!" Pollesch quipped.

"If the minimum wage had been indexed to inflation when it was originally passed, it would now be over \$23 per hour," Pollesch said, and further commented that a living wage offers more dignity and is more cost-effective than food stamps, cash assistance and tax credits.

Fixing the roads is one of Pollesch's priorities, and her funding proposal is to broaden the sales tax base by extending it to include luxury services such as ski tickets, greens fees and movie tickets.

Education is another of Pollesch's priorities. She believes government should be contributing more toward education at all levels, noting that with

see POLLESCH, page 11

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Debbie Dingell

Thoughtful and frank, Debbie Dingell's nuanced responses revealed both a reluctance to being tethered by a lightly-considered response and a deliberate openness to possibilities for broad solutions to complex problems.

For example, responding as to whether she favors making permanent the improvements to the federal Child Tax Credit that allow workers making as little as \$3,000 to receive a partial credit, Dingell hesitated to say yes unequivocally because she thinks our entire tax code needs overhauling and that everything needs to be negotiable in that process. She also pointed out that raising fuel efficiency standards had the unintended consequence of reducing revenues for the highway trust fund, leaving our roads in shambles.

There are other areas of the government she would like to reform, noting that there are 38 separate federal job training programs and some excessive regulations which could be combined or eliminated. She does think job training programs have value, and favors incentives for companies that hire workers with challenges. Dingell believes that increased hiring will stimulate the economy and ultimately reduce the deficit.

While Dingell thinks there are times to run a deficit, just as most individuals take out a mortgage to buy a home, she says that eventually you have to deal with that debt. Though there are no easy answers, Dingell firmly believes that our priorities have to drive the manner in which we address recent budget shortfalls. Adjusting the corporate tax rate with incentives for domestic employment might be an element of tax reform that reflects how highly we value jobs.

"Here are two problems that I see. Twenty years ago, the CEO made approximately 30 times what of the average worker made in their company. Today they make 300 times what the average worker makes in their company. Spending on education increased 21 percent in the last 20 years; it has increased 127 percent for prisons. There's a problem there," Dingell asserted.

As to solving problems, finding common interests – such as businesses and environmentalists working together to spur development of new energy technologies – is one of Dingell's strategies, and building trust is another. Dingell believes deeply in the power



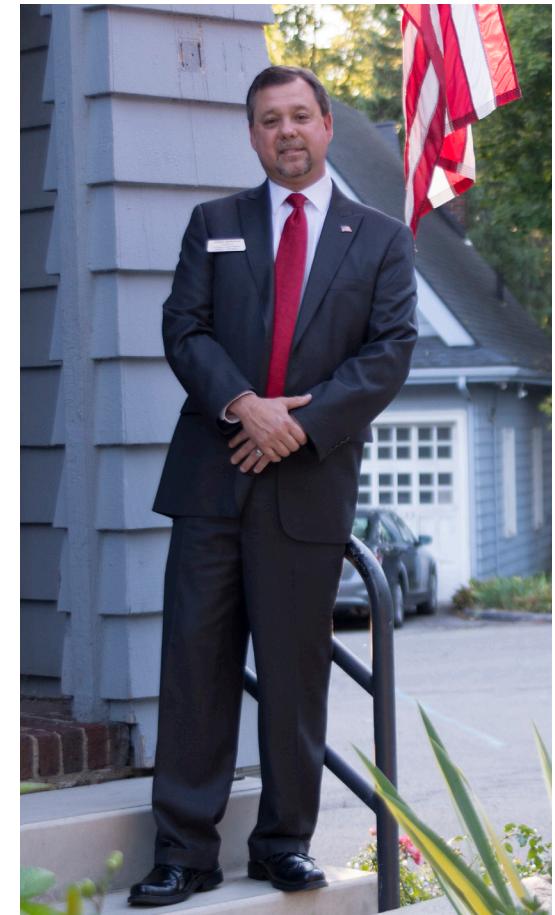
Debbie Dingell at the re-opening of Avalon's Pauline Apartments in Ann Arbor on March 16, 2014.

Terry Bowman

A conservative from a union family who himself works on the Ford assembly line, Terry Bowman is an unlikely Republican who describes himself as a strong conservative. Nevertheless, he sees the role of government as a protector and believes that all Americans should have a decent standard of living.

He believes that setting a minimum should be left to each state but that all states should have that minimum rise with the cost of living. Any rise in the minimum wage should be slow and structured so it is not too difficult for businesses to absorb. He wants to avoid encouraging further replacement of workers with robots and kiosks for self-ordering.

Bowman advocated vociferously for Michigan to be a Right to Work state as a way to hold union leaders accountable to their members, and would like to see that become federal policy. He supports the OSHA safety regulations and thinks that creating an environment that promotes job creation is the best way to protect



Terry Bowman outside the Ann Arbor City Club prior to the Sept. 16 candidate forum sponsored by the Washtenaw Medical Society.

workers' jobs. He would like to see the federal government help states with job training for long-term unemployed workers. Once trained, the workers' resumes would be put in a job bank and employers who hire from the job bank would receive tax credits for doing so.

Regarding personal taxes, Bowman's preference is to wipe out the tax code and replace it with a "fair tax" that has "pre-bates," which are monthly advance rebates up to the poverty level for all households, but is otherwise a flat tax on all retail purchases. Bowman would exempt food and leave children and mortgages on the primary residence as the only deductions.

"Taxes should be able to be done on a postcard," Bowman said. "And where is the social justice in leaving our children saddled with our debt?"

He went on to acknowledge that the powerful lobbyists for tax preparation companies, accountants and tax lawyers would probably block such an overhaul. However, he supports the Citizen's United decision and opposes curtailing the political influence of corporations.

Bowman supports a balanced budget amendment that calls for a 10 percent across the board cut in government spending over a four year period. He believes that the cuts in government

see DINGELL, page 11

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Hint: f = 7

Groundcover Vendor Code

While Groundcover News is a nonprofit organization and newspaper vendors are considered contracted self-employers, we still have expectations of how vendors should conduct themselves while selling and representing the paper.

The following list is our Vendor Code of Conduct, which every vendor reads and signs before receiving a badge and papers. We request that if you discover a vendor violating any tenets of the Code, please contact us and provide as many details as possible. Our paper and our vendors should be positively impacting our County.

All vendors must agree to the following code of conduct:

- Groundcover News will be distributed for a voluntary donation of \$1, or the face value of the paper. I agree not to ask for more than face value or solicit donations by any other means.
- I will only sell current issues of Groundcover News.
- I agree not to sell additional goods or products when selling the paper or to panhandle, including panhandling with only one paper.
- I will wear and display my badge when selling papers.
- I will only purchase the paper from Groundcover News Staff and will not sell

to or buy papers from other Groundcover News vendors, especially vendors who have been suspended or terminated.

- I agree to treat all customers, staff and other vendors respectfully. I will not "hard sell," threaten, harass or pressure customers, staff, or other vendors verbally or physically.
- I will not sell Groundcover News under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- I understand that I am not a legal employee of Groundcover News but a contracted worker responsible for my own well-being and income.
- I understand that my badge is property of Groundcover News and will not deface it. I will present my badge when purchasing the papers.
- I agree to stay off private property when selling Groundcover News.
- I understand to refrain from selling on public buses, federal property or stores unless there is permission from the owner.
- I agree to stay at least one block away from another vendor. I will also abide by the Vendor corner policy.

If you see any Groundcover News vendors not abiding by the code of conduct, please report the activity to:
contact@groundcovernews.com
 734-707-9210

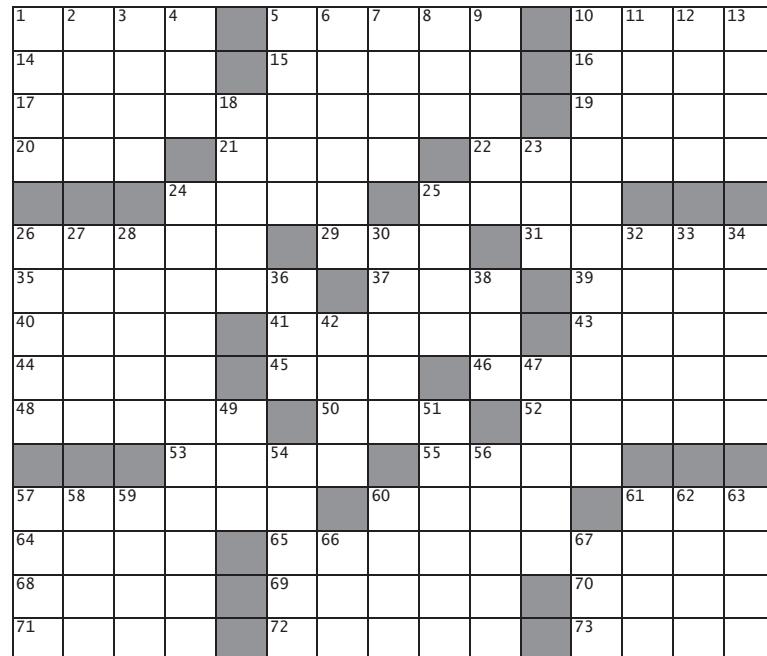
ACROSS

1. Decides
5. Felony
10. How sad
14. Scope
15. Pablo Casals's instrument
16. Story
17. Aquatic genus
19. 1982 movie
20. Plate official
21. Panorama
22. Antagonize
24. Agree with
25. British rock band, founded 1980s
26. Bad landing sound
29. Be slow
31. Tropical fish
35. Latitude
37. Litigate
39. Mark, as a map
40. On
41. Set in motion
43. Despicable person
44. Actress Louise
45. Formerly named
46. Cold drink
48. Ancient monument
50. Dead _____
52. Grey goose
53. Beverage
55. Ireland
57. Ravel composition
60. Skin inflammation
61. Health club
64. Entryway
65. Mock evacuations
68. Actor McCord
69. Singer Lopez
70. Alcove
71. It follows that
72. Black Sea city
73. Communiqué

DOWN

1. Location of Hickam Air Force Base
2. Baby buggy
3. Certain office worker
4. Actor Robards
5. Caustic
6. Mend shoes
7. Did in
8. Small city in Arkansas
9. Lymph glands
10. Spirit world
11. Ms. Croft
12. Excited
13. Rational
18. Broadway musical
23. Nibble
24. Tree or its extract
25. Malaria symptom
26. Airplane wing parts
27. Common surname in France
28. Sierra _____
30. Car model of the 1970s
32. Fish genus
33. Two-door car
34. Frogger's nemesis
36. Concept of Chinese philosophy

In the carpenter's workshop



38. Mythical being
42. Submissive
47. Less common
49. Atmosphere
51. Respectable
54. Exalted
56. Country on the Arabian Sea
57. Dry with heat
58. River in Europe
59. Atlantic food fish
60. Seed covering
61. Blackthorn
62. Remove snow
63. Entreats
66. Radio host Flatow
67. Traveler's abode

Puzzle by Jeff Richmond



Bethlehem United Church of Christ

423 S. Fourth Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48104

(between William and Packard)

(734) 665-6149

Bethlehem Church is the home of the Groundcover office.

Sundays:

8:30 am and 10:00 am - Worship Services

10:15 am – Sunday school

Fellowship Hour follows each service

Upcoming Community Events

(Bethlehem-ucc.org for more details)

Sunday, Oct. 5

Blessing of the Pets in Fifth Ave. yard, 2pm

Public Welcome

Tuesday, Oct. 7

Hops and Hallelujahs, 6pm at Conor O'Neill's, Main St.

Join us as we take worship downtown!

Sunday, Oct. 12

German Pretzels Sales, after service, \$1 each or \$10 dozen

Friday Oct. 24

German Pretzels Sales, 12-3pm, \$1 each or \$10 dozen

www.bethlehem-ucc.org

www.facebook.com/bethlehemuccA2

www.pinterest.com/bethlehemuccA2

www.youtube.com/user/BethlehemChurchA2

Meet Fred Allen, Vendor #170

by Sue Budin
Groundcover Contributor

Fred Allen grew up in Ann Arbor and graduated from Pioneer High School in 1977. His father worked as a mechanic at a car dealership and at the University of Michigan. His mother was a home-maker, taking care of him and three other siblings. After graduating from Pioneer, Fred worked construction, had some landscaping jobs, and worked at restaurants, most recently at the Parthenon, the Greek restaurant that is now Lena's. He never married.

Almost three years ago, Fred had one of two strokes. He was standing in the driveway of the Raja Rani Restaurant, feeling woozy and light-headed. He was taken to the U-M Hospital and was released after a week. The next day, he had another stroke and returned to the hospital for three weeks, then was sent to a nursing home for special I.V. treatments.

Despite these setbacks, Fred remains



Groundcover News is an important social outlet for vendor Fred Allen.

upbeat. He has free housing as part of an agreement with a family who owns some property he helps take care of. Contrary to common public misperception, he, like some other vendors, is not homeless but subsists on very low income. Other vendors often need to work additional part-time jobs, but because of Social Security Disability payments and his housing/job arrangement, Fred does not have to depend entirely on selling Groundcover or other work to meet his expenses. Although vendors make \$.75 on each paper that sells for a dollar, and some sell many papers, it's still barely enough to meet subsistence needs.

Fred started selling papers last November and does it "to get out of the house." He's met some interesting people, including one of U-M's star basketball players, Jordan

Morgan, who sold papers with him and other vendors last winter. Just yesterday, a woman sang him a song on her ukulele.

One of Fred's regular outposts is Friends' Meeting House on Hill St., where he's met some very kind people including a nun visiting from Nigeria who was eager to learn about Groundcover. He also sells papers on Main St. and sometimes in front of the People's Food Co-op. Some merchants don't want vendors outside their doors, thinking it will discourage customers, but Fred has an easygoing attitude, just moving to another spot where he knows he'll be welcomed. He says Groundcover needs more vendors who would sell papers in Pittsfield Township and Ypsilanti.

As to the future, Fred hopes to get another part-time job while continuing his work as a caretaker and vendor. Fred says, "It's fun selling" – a great attitude for a successful vendor who cares and is cared for by the generous people who buy his papers.

Having Faith

by Shawn Story
Groundcover Vendor #42

Faith: to believe in God's truth, fact, or idea.

Faith starts with the joy and happiness you bring to yourself and the know-how to be proud and confident in everything you do.

If you shut out the negative and bring in the positive, He will give you everything you need,

if you have faith in Him, He will bless you with everything you want.

Whatever you're thinking or feeling, create your future life,

your negative or positive energy gives off a vibe to the world.

Did you know that you don't surround the world, but that the world surrounds you?

1 Corinthians 2:5: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

Robin Williams' suicide sparks reflections



by Peggy Donham
Groundcover Vendor #98

Since the death of Robin Williams the conversation about mental illness has been frequent among my friends. Many people know someone who suffers from some form of emotional disorder. I cope with depression and anxiety. Talking about it can be very painful.

I feel a profound sadness about the pain Mr. Williams was in before he took his life. I have experienced, many times in my life, where my depression has felt

extremely painful. Sometimes I thought I'd never crawl out from those places of complete despair.

Because I can't touch or see depression, I feel a great deal of shame and guilt. Thoughts of being a failure and disappointment, to my friends and family, fuel feelings that make me more depressed. During those times, I know what it feels like to believe that the only way out is to die. Every day I am grateful to have wonderful healthcare people who have helped me through those difficult times. With the aid of medication and learning healthy coping skills, I can deal with the stresses of life and I'm more stable than ever before.

With the release of information that Mr. Williams was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, a few of my friends expressed relief that his physical illness may have been the reason he killed himself. Robin Williams dealt with depression and substance abuse long before his Parkinson's diagnosis. In my opinion, it's still difficult for people to accept depression, or any form of mental illness, as a valid medical illness. And it shouldn't take a famous person's untimely death to cause society to pay attention.

Pam Byrnes running for Congress from W. Washtenaw

Dissatisfied with the representation of Congressman Tim Walberg, Pam Byrnes is returning to politics. She thinks her experience as a Washtenaw County Road Commissioner and chair of the Michigan House Transportation Committee will help qualify her for the Transportation Committee, from which she can promote policies that will help repair Michigan's roads and bridges. She would also like to be appointed to the Agriculture Committee because it is so important to our state, and to the Energy and Commerce Committee where she could encourage advanced manufacturing and university research.

Economic survival drives most Michigan households and businesses, and Byrnes' policy decisions reflect that. She would like to see us get away from fossil fuels and use more renewables, but realizes that in the short term this will drive increases in energy costs that many families will find onerous. She favors programs that help families help themselves to become financially stable, but is also concerned with how programs will be funded.

Byrnes appreciates the role labor unions have played in elevating middle-class income levels and improving working



Pam Byrnes hopes to unseat Congressman Tim Walberg and become the new Representative for the western side of Washtenaw County.

conditions and health care insurance coverage for workers. She supports OSHA regulations within reason, and believes that employees and employers working together can come up with policies and regulations that keep workers safe and businesses profitable.

She says that deficit spending is appropriate in some circumstances, much like when a family takes on a mortgage to finance a house or a loan to buy a car, but repayment of the debt and interest must be accounted for in the budget. Byrnes favors a conversation among

a family law attorney drives her passion for protecting women from violence and providing equal pay for women. While Director of the Washtenaw County Friend of the Court, she worked with volunteers to open Washtenaw County's SafeHouse.

To get people back into the workforce, Byrnes advocates adult literacy initiatives and tax incentives for employers whose policies permit them to hire people whose limitations – such as family obligations or health conditions

stakeholders, like that of the Simpson-Bowles commission, for addressing the current shortfalls in the federal budget. She has pledged to refuse a Congressional pay raise until the budget is balanced.

Byrnes' background as

– restrict them from traditional shifts of full-time employment.

Regarding immigration, Byrnes wants to see us secure the borders. She favors a pathway to citizenship for applicants who meet all the requirements and have waited their turn. Byrnes believes the United States should engage in humanitarian foreign aid, especially in the health and medical arenas and providing educational supplies. She values the training that Peace Corps volunteers provide, too.

As to getting things done in a contentious environment, Byrnes first addressed that when she was Speaker Pro Tempore in the State House. She immediately replaced the long rectangular table in her new office with a large round table, with no positions of power, at which all the stakeholder gathered to come up with solutions.

"It sounds kinds of flippant, but when it looked like there was going to be another government shutdown, it was the women Senators, gathered around the table with their pizza and their salads, who sat down and worked out a solution – Republicans and Democrats – so it can be done," Byrnes concluded.



Community...everyone is a member.

Ypsilanti, MI between the hours of 8:30 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday to receive the following assistance and support.

Adult Services for persons with serious mental illness include: Assessments; Medication Monitoring; Case Management; Medication Administration; Crisis Stabilization

Services to Persons with Developmental Disabilities include: Case Management; Respite Services; Community Living Services; Skill Building Assistance

Community Support & Treatment Services (CSTS)

CSTS Access is the central entry point for all Medicaid eligible and uninsured adults and children requesting mental health, developmental disabilities, and/or substance use disorder information and services in Washtenaw County.

Individuals can call **(734) 544-3050** or **1 (800) 440-7548** 24-hours a day, 7 days a week or walk in to 555 Towner St.,

Ypsilanti, MI between the hours of 8:30 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday to receive the following assistance and support.

• • •

"Never give up on someone with a mental illness. When "I" is replaced by "We", illness becomes wellness."

— Shannon L. Alder

• • •

Youth and Family Services include: Assessment; Individual & Family Therapy for children, adolescents (up to age 18) and their families; Infant Mental Health Services; Respite Services; Community Living Services; Case Management

Substance Use Disorder Services: Assessment screenings to determine appropriate level of care; referrals for adults and adolescents; Information about community resources including self-help/support group meetings; Recovery Supports and Case Management Services

GOVERNOR

Mark Schauer

(This is a synopsis of Gubernatorial candidate Mark Schauer's responses to a series of questions we asked him. For the full interview, go to our website, groundcovernews.org, and check out our Story Supplements section.)

Education is Schauer's top budget priority. "I want to be the Education Governor and move Michigan towards universal preschool, ensuring that all students have access to community-based wraparound services before and after school that address barriers to learning. This is one of the best long-term investments we can make in our economy, by building a talented workforce that can compete for high-wage, high-skill jobs," he said.

Schauer would increase funding to ensure Michigan classes are of manageable sizes and taught by highly trained teachers, and would devote all the money in the School Aid Fund to preschool and K-12 purposes only.

"I'll work to make school services more efficient by expanding efforts to consolidate services between school districts and with intermediate school districts, while maintaining local control and protecting our communities and our students from unintended consequences," Schauer said.

"As governor, I'll work to make college more affordable for families by reversing Snyder's cuts to higher education and enhancing state-provided, need-based financial aid. And I'll also establish a student loan refinancing authority to allow qualified borrowers to refinance their student loans at lower interest rates," Schauer said on the topic of affordable post-secondary education.

Schauer's jobs plan calls for adjusting tax policy to put more money back into the pockets of middle-class workers, and those struggling to get there. He expects their increased spending will then help small business grow and create good employment opportunities.

Establishing a Renewable Energy Standard of 30 percent clean energy use in Michigan by 2035 is a strategy Schauer promotes for creating thousands of well-paying jobs while simultaneously protecting tourism and agriculture. He also pledged to double the amount of energy saved through advanced energy efficiency measures. His plan for agriculture is refocusing our universities and extension services of food safety science while assisting small family farms with global product marketing and modern technologies.



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A statesman, of the
next generation.**

— James Freeman Clarke

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2	9	6	5	7	1	8	4	3
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7	4	9	8	2	6	3	1	5
8	1	3	7	5	9	6	2	4
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9	2	5	1	3	7	4	8	6

Shari Pollesch

continued from page 6

their actual staffing costs.

Pollesch endorses Robert Reich's "pay-it-forward" proposition for making post-secondary education affordable, whereby students do not pay tuition but contribute 12 percent of their salary for their first 12 years of full-time employment into a fund that finances higher education.

As to immigration, though it is a nuanced and difficult problem, Pollesch favors countrywide, comprehensive reform. She can't support Governor Snyder's initiative for preferential treatment for those who are likely to create jobs because she does not want to pick winners and losers, knowing that people don't leave their homes without compelling reasons to do so.

Pollesch believes her experience as a litigator will help her negotiate with colleagues in the Senate. "My reputation as an attorney is fighting the battles you can win and compromising on the ones that you can't in a way that serves your client. And that's how I would view my role in the legislature."

Debbie Dingell

continued from page 7

of relationships. She started a series of monthly Congressional dinners in the Library of Congress so people would sit down together, have real conversations and form collegial relationships. "I talk to everybody, I know everybody," said Dingell.

She says we have to remember how to talk with each other, to come together as a community, recognize our interdependency, and build relationships based on mutual respect. In that spirit she strongly urged us to interview Terry Bowman, her opponent in the upcoming election.

(Dingell shared some of her personal stories that mirror those of some of our vendors. We will delve into these in a future article.)

John Hochstetler

continued from page 5

he said. Hochstetler looks askance at anyone spending a million dollars to get elected for two years to a \$70,000 per year job.

Hochstetler believes he will be a good State Senator, since he knows people in the district and is good at asking questions. His broad long-term goals include ending homelessness in America, addressing taxation and regulation so jobs stop leaving, food independence in Michigan, preserving the Great Lakes, strengthening the nuclear family, and developing hydrogen-fueled cars.

Terry Bowman

continued from page 7

spending will create opportunities for private businesses who will then pay more in taxes, creating a double benefit.

Skeptical of climate change, Bowman nevertheless wants to protect natural resources like the Great Lakes. He favors clean coal because it is affordable but thinks wind, solar and hydrogen fuel should all play a part in meeting our energy needs.

As a world leader, Bowman thinks foreign aid is important for peace-keeping and protecting human rights around the world. He also supports the World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control in fighting communicable diseases, particularly by helping private industry with research and production of vital vaccines.

"The consequences of infectious diseases [of Ebola, tuberculosis, AIDS] are so grave that our response must be considered a war," said Bowman.

With no desire to be a career politician and little chance of surviving the 2018 election, Bowman says he won't pander to special interests and will use the next two years to fight for people, not reelection.

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FOOD

Turkey pumpkin chili



by Lisa Sonnenburg
Groundcover Contributor

What better way to celebrate fall than with a hearty bowl of chili – and pumpkin!

Serves 2-3

Ingredients:

1 tsp vegetable oil
1/3 cup chopped onion
1/2 green pepper, chopped
1/2 yellow pepper, chopped
1 clove garlic, minced
1 can diced tomatoes (14.5 ounce)
2/3 cup pumpkin puree (homemade or canned)
1/2 pound ground turkey (or ground meat alternative)
1 1/2 tsp chili powder

1/8 tsp ground black pepper
Dash of salt
3 tbsp shredded cheese
3 tbsp sour cream

Directions:

- Heat oil in large skillet over medium heat and sauté the onion, peppers and garlic until tender.
- Stir in turkey and cook until evenly browned.
- Drain, and mix in tomatoes and pumpkin.
- Season with chili powder, salt and pepper.
- Reduce heat to low and simmer for 20 minutes.
- Serve topped with cheese and sour cream (optional).

(Adapted from [allrecipes.com](http://www.allrecipes.com))

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Little Grasshopper, it is time to speak of your psychic progress, for without this all other skills remain unmastered.

Sadly, I cannot yet read your mind, Sensei. Please share more.

You have done most admirably with our recent guest, who needed rest. You knew not to enter the room and jump on the bed, despite the guest having invited you many times to do so.

You have honed my senses, Master, so I knew our absence was needed more than our presence.

And this despite your many moments rolling ridiculously in our guest's clothes and bedding.

I sensed then my silliness was needed.

Be that as it may I commend you on your restraint today.

Just so you know, I did enter later and head-butted the pillows!